

Keeping VHCA Healthy

Unfortunately, the cold and flu season will be upon us soon and we wanted to help you in deciding whether or not your child is well enough to come to school. The following is a clarification of existing school policy that addresses the issue as to whether a child should attend school if they appear to be sick. The reasoning behind the policy is to protect your student's health and the health of other students and staff. Throughout this school year, please be alert to any of the following symptoms and take the appropriate action to protect the health of your child.

Students should not be attending classes if the following symptoms are present:

- **A skin rash that cannot be identified.**
- **A persistent cough or cold and/or fever.**
- **Vomiting, diarrhea and/or fever within the past 12 hours. Students may not attend if these symptoms are present.**
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye): students may not attend school if discharge is present.**
- **Chickenpox: school exclusion is until all the lesions have dried and are crusted over (usually six or seven days after the infection began).**
- **Strep throat (streptococcal pharyngitis): student may return to school after they have been on an antibiotic for twenty-four hours and are without fever.**
- **Head Lice: students may return to school when examination verifies that they are nit-(eggs) and louse-free.**

Remind students to cover their noses and mouths with a tissue or even a sleeve when coughing or sneezing. If hands become contaminated with respiratory secretions while coughing or sneezing, students must perform proper hand hygiene as soon as possible.

Remind your students to practice good hygiene both inside and outside of school!

If your child does miss a day of school, please remember to contact the school first thing in the morning to let us know your child will be out along with the symptoms your child is showing. Also, students coming in tardy or missing a day of school are required to bring in an note explaining their tardiness or absence when they are well enough to return.

Christian Service Opportunity

Calvary Baptist Church is partnering with The Impact Project on **Saturday, September 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. at 5 Riverview Trailer Park in Norwich.** Volunteers will be replacing the roof and improving the landscaping around the home. Lunch is provided. Students can sign-up in the school office if they haven't yet. Those students in 9th - 12th grade would be able to count the hours toward their Christian Service requirements.

Volunteer Forms

Every year we are required to have new volunteer forms filled out for each person who will be working directly with our students. Whether you help in the classroom, drive/chaperone on a fieldtrip, or help in any other duty during the school day. They are available in the school office or on our website under the Parent link.

Entering and Exiting The School Parking Lot

We want to remind all drivers who come to the school that you should enter the lower parking area and leave by driving around the school, exiting the upper parking area. The parking lot can become very congested at certain times of the day. We all need to be mindful of the procedure to help avoid accidents or additional congestion. We also want to remind all drivers to observe the flashing lights on the school buses both in the morning and afternoon. If you pass a school bus with flashing lights, the bus drivers will take your license plate number and you will be reported.



www.vhcaonline.com

Set our website as a "favorite" to stay informed of events and other important information.

Welcome Back To School HOME MEMO

Valley Heights Christian Academy

75 Calvary Drive, Norwich NY 13815 - 607-336-8422

September 11, 2017

Back-2-School Gathering

We are excited to invite all VHCA families on **Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium** to meet the Staff and School Board. Desserts and drink **will be provided.** This is a change from the first notice sent out during late summer when we asked for families to bring a dessert. We want to make it easy on the families as it take some adjustment to get back in the routine of back-to-school.

Hope to see you all there this Thursday!

Casual Dress Day Announced

The first Wednesday of every month is designated *Casual Dress Day*. The first one will be **October 4th**! Please remember, it is *casual* not sloppy dress day. Students must not wear nylon or cotton type sweat pants; must not wear dirty or sometimes smelly sneakers; must not wear any tops that are immodest or revealing in any way or have inappropriate writing/pictures; or must not wear any jackets, sweatshirt or top that is considered outerwear. Parents and students are asked to cooperate and support appropriate dress and grooming even on Casual Dress Day.

Many students look forward to this monthly privilege. Did you know that not all students get to participate in Casual Dress Day? Students who received after school detentions, received more than three lunch time detentions, received three zeros for homework within any one class, or had a dress code violation, do not get to participate.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

September 11th - 25th:

Yankee Candle Sale

September 14th:

Back-2-School Gathering

October 4th:

1st Mid-Quarter Evaluation

October 5th & 6th:

Staff Development - No School

October 9th:

Columbus Day - No School & Office Closed

October 11th:

Interim Reports Go Home

October 19th:

Parent Teacher Conferences

Soccer Schedule enclosed or online at vhcaonline.com

Family Services Program Opportunities

There are immediate volunteer needs for the following:

- **Cleaning Opportunities**
- **Sports Booster Concession Stand Needs (see enclosed flier)**

If you or someone you know would like more information or be interested in helping out in any of these areas, please contact the school office at 336-8422.

All opportunities qualify for the Family Services Program hour requirements. Time Slips are available in the school office and should be filled out within 7 days of service.



Welcome, everyone, to the start of our 35th year at Valley Heights Christian Academy! I want to extend a special welcome to our 11 new students and their families, as well as our new Kindergarten teacher. This year proves to be another fun-filled, learning year for our students with plenty of opportunities for developing both inside and outside of the classroom as we continue to work towards making more and better disciples!

As with the start of every school year, there are some items that need "ironing out." Please be patient as we do our best to make this year the best it can be. We are still accepting new students, so if you have a family in mind, please do your part. Strike up a conversation with them. Encourage them to consider VHCA. We also have some materials available in the office for you to use as you promote our great school.

This year, we have some changes. Some already have occurred, and others are yet to happen. One of the changes is that we hired a brand new Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Rebecca Lewandowski is a graduate of VHCA and has returned to oversee this very important classroom of ours. We are so fortunate to have her on staff this year. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements from staff and students alike!

Thank you for allowing VHCA to partner with you on this journey. We all look forward with great anticipation of what God will do in the hearts and minds of the young people we have the privilege of teaching. May our 35th year be our best one yet!

Not a sermon...just a thought.

Mr. Hodge

Absences and Tardies

Please call the school office at 336-8422 in the morning if your child is sick and will not be attending school on that day. A written note of excuse is still required upon the student's return to school.

Please call the school office if your child will be arriving late to school for any reason. A written note of excuse is required for tardiness upon your student entering into school.

Please notify the school and teachers ahead of time if your child will be absent from school due to a family trip, to attend a funeral, or other events that require the student to miss classes. Teachers would appreciate as much advance notice as possible for any necessary homework requests prior to the student's absence.

Milk and Hot Lunches

We have 1% Chocolate or Whole White milk available to purchase at lunch for 25¢. Milk is also available to the K4 & K5 classes for morning snack at the same price. Students can purchase milk daily or parents can send in money to go on a milk credit. An e-mail will be sent home when credits run low.

We do not have a secured freezer for Ice Cream sales this year. Watch for more information if this becomes available at some point later in the school year.

The Sr. Class offers Hot Lunches on Friday's for students to pre-order for a set price. Orders need to be placed two days prior to the lunch. Order sheets are sent out in advance but are also available in the VHCA office or on our website.

Online Payments Accepted

We can now take tuition payments right on our website. Click on the "Parents" Tab and go down to "Make a Payment." You just have to put in your child's name and enter your credit card information. We can also take payments over the phone or in person.

We accept cash, checks, or credit/debit card payments.

School Closings

Any school closings due to bad weather will be broadcast over the following:

Radio Stations: WCHN (AM970), WKXZ (93.9FM, 95.3FM), WCDO (100.9FM),

Television Station: WBNG-TV (12)

Online: www.vhcaonline.com, www.wbng.com, and www.evesun.com.

Phone: When calling the main office at VHCA, the recording would indicate the closure.

When the Norwich City Schools are closed for bad weather, VHCA will be closed. Due to the fact that we have multiple school districts sending students to Valley Heights Christian Academy, our school does not delay.

All VHCA Visitors & Volunteers

A reminder to all visitors, including volunteers, parents, and/or other family members, who wish to visit a student, a class, or a teacher are required to report to the school office first to request permission for their visit. Visitors are not allowed to go directly to the classroom, which also includes entering the gymnasium building.

At the start of the school day, students in K4/K5 & 7th - 12th grade are dismissed to go directly to their homerooms in the main building. Students in 1st - 6th grade are released with our safety patrol to cross over to their classrooms in the gymnasium building. Visitors should not be entering the gymnasium building at that time unless they have been granted permission as described in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Easy Fundraising Opportunities

Tools for Schools

Price Chopper allows those who shop with their Advantage Card to give back to the school they register for. We currently have 52 shoppers registered for VHCA. We encourage any parents, grandparents, other family members, and friends to register. VHCA School Code is **17077**.

Tops in Education

Tops Friendly Markets contributes a percentage of every purchase to schools from customers who purchase TOPS, TopCare, or Full Circle brand products with their Tops Bonus Card. Complete details, register your card and select VHCA by visiting www.TopsMarkets.com/Education

Box Top\$ For Education

Clip Box Top\$ from hundreds of General Mills products and turn them in to VHCA. Each one is worth 10¢ and they do add up quickly.

Schedule Reminders

School Start Time

This is a reminder that students will be marked tardy if they arrive to school after the homeroom bell rings at **8:06 a.m.** The cafeteria door will open at 7:30 a.m. and students can begin to arrive after that time. Please do not drop children off before then as there is *no supervision* available and the door will be locked. Lights may be on in the building but do not assume that the door is unlocked. Thank you for your assistance with seeing that your student arrives prior to the 8:06 a.m. starting time. *All* students, regardless of the means of transportation, who arrive after 8:06 must report to the school office before going to their homeroom or class.

Lunch Times

School Lunch is being observed by the entire student body from **12:01 - 12:26 p.m.** in the main cafeteria.

Dismissal Time

All students will be dismissed at **2:20 p.m.**

Phys. Ed. Schedule

Tuesday: 7th - 12th grade Boys
Wednesday: K4 thru 6th
Thursday: 7th - 12th grade Girls

- Students in 3rd - 12th grade are required to change into gym clothes for class.
- K4 - 2nd grade just change their shoes.

